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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)
SUBJECT The Attacks on Bourgeois Party Functionaries

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 27 FEB 50

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED

25X1

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

25X1

DATE OF INFO.

25X1

SUPPLEMENT
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

- 25X1 1. Georg Dertinger returned from Moscow with a Russian promise that the bourgeois parties, especially the CDU, would be considered trusted allies by the Soviets and would receive special assignments within the framework of Russian foreign policy. It was emphasized that the DDR was not and will not become a People's Democracy of the Balkan type.* Accordingly when the SED attacks on Hickmann and Rohner** were launched, both Dertinger and Otto Nuschke regarded them as bagatelles. Subsequently Semenov again assured Nuschke that the Moscow line calls for full support of the CDU. The attacks, however, continued and grew more violent, so that Nuschke felt obliged to seek assistance from Wilhelm Pieck. The latter stated that this was a local Saxon matter and that he had no information concerning it. Nuschke was unable to contact Walter Ulbricht so he tried to have the zonal Antifa Bloc convened.
2. Franz Dahlen (SED) replied that his Party had attempted to call a Bloc meeting early in January to consider this very problem of political attacks on certain party functionaries, but that the CDU and LDP had turned down the SED proposal. It is scarcely surprising, said Dahlen, that the people themselves are now seeking action after the failure of the parties. The SED, in any case, will make no effort to halt the public attacks on CDU leaders; it is up to the CDU to heed the will of the people. Dahlen emphasized that the SED is in no way responsible for the campaign which is based solely on public feeling and that the Soviets are not connected with it either directly or indirectly. Nuschke then attempted to contact other Soviet officials, whereupon he was dispatched by Pieck to Kolaroff's funeral in Sofia.**
3. The actual SED motivation, as revealed by [redacted] Ulbricht, is somewhat different. During his sojourn in Moscow Ulbricht reported on the dangers to the National Front from the "medium-sized" functionaries of the bourgeois parties. According to this thesis the "small" officials in villages and towns are completely under local SED control, and the top zonal officials of the bourgeois parties are completely sold out to the SED, so that only the "middle-size" officials (in Land Ho. and in large cities) are

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Next Review Date: 2008

Approved For Release 2004/07/29 : CIA-RDP82-00457R004400050011-5

Document No.	611
No Change in Class.	
Declassified	
Class. Changed To:	TS S. C
Auth.	HR 70-2
Date:	12 JUN 1978
By	

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capable of resistance to the SED program. Ulbricht claimed that the top bourgeois leaders have a very poor reputation in West Germany, whereas the "middle-sized" functionaries are regarded as honest men and the true spokesmen of the bourgeois parties. With the motto, "National Front", these officials are sabotaging the SED line by actually propagandizing a policy of German neutrality between East and West. It is reported that Ulbricht convinced his Moscow superiors of the validity of his argument and was given a free hand to deal with the bourgeois saboteurs. He was warned, however, that the campaign must not appear to be a child of the SED, and that the SED itself must quell the sentiment in its own ranks that rejects the nationalism of the "National Front" as incompatible with Leninism.

25X1 [REDACTED]

25X1 [REDACTED] Comment: Professor Hugo Hickmann and Minister Rohner of Land Saxony.25X1 [REDACTED] Comment: Die Welt, 26 January 1950, reports that final CDU action will be held up pending Muschke's return from Sofia.~~SECRET~~